



Specialty Crops Market News Division U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement Seasonal Perishable Products Weekly Update

Agricultural Marketing Service

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Update for Week of October 8 - 14, 2023

This report provides trend analysis of the volume and prices of Seasonal Perishable commodities. Volume represents current week and prices represent open (spot) market sales by first handlers on product of generally good quality and condition unless otherwise stated and may include promotional allowances or other incentives. The charts provide graphic representation of the volume and prices of the major commodities this week based on seasonal volume.

Bridge closures and train delays associated with an influx of migrants crossing the Texas-Mexico border have affected freight traffic in recent weeks. Along with this, additional vehicle security checkpoints set up by the state of Texas have caused major delays of freight at border crossings early this week, with reports of up to 19,000 trucks delayed at the border on Sunday. Freight associations estimate the delayed trucks were carrying about \$1.9 billion in goods, including large amounts of perishable produce and other agricultural products, leaving shippers scrambling to find alternative routes. Wait times of up to 6 hours were still being estimated at some crossings as late as Thursday afternoon. These enhanced commercial safety inspections are being carried out by the Texas Department of Public Safety to deter migrant and smuggling activity as well as to detect unsafe vehicles. Officials on both sides continue to work to mitigate the delays.

Mexico crossings of asparagus through Arizona, California and Texas are expected to remain about the same. Trading was fairly active early and moderate later. Prices were higher, with 11-pound cartons/crates bunched green large mostly 30.75 and standard mostly 28.75. Extra services included. A wide range in quality is reported. Peru imports of asparagus through South Florida ports of entry movement expected to increase slightly. Trading moderate, with prices standard much higher, large higher, jumbo and extra-large slightly higher, and white slightly lower. 11-pound cartons bunched green jumbo and extra-large mostly 26.85-28.75, large mostly 26.75-28.75, standard mostly 25.95-26.75, small supplies insufficient to quote, and fairly light supplies of white large 25.75-28.50. Sizing profile reported remains mostly standard, but larger sizes are still increasing in volume for most shippers. Arrivals mostly by boat but shipments via air continuing to increase. Quality and condition are reported as variable but generally good.

Movement of avocado 2023 crop crossings from Mexico through Texas is expected to increase. Trading was fairly slow early and slow later. Prices 84s and organic 70s generally unchanged, others lower. Cartons 2-layer Hass 40s mostly 43.25-45.25, 48s mostly 33.25-34.25, 60s mostly 28.25-30.25, 70s mostly 21.25-23.25, and 84s mostly 18.25. Organic 48s mostly 50.25-52.25, 60s mostly 37.25-38.25, 70s mostly 30.25-32.25. Extra services included.

Movement of cucumbers from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading fairly active early and active later. Prices higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 22.95-24.05, large mostly 21.95-23.95, fair quality mostly 16.95-18.95 and ordinary quality mostly 12.95-13.95. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality is reported as variable. Cucumber movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa is expected to decrease. Trading moderate with prices generally unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium and large mostly 16.95-18.95, fair quality 14.95-16.95 and ordinary quality 7.95-8.95. Cartons 36s 8.95-9.95. Quality is reported as variable. The first report has been issued for Mexico crossings of cucumbers through Nogales, Arizona. Movement is expected to increase seasonally. Trading reported as moderate with prices 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 20.95-22.95, fair quality 16.95-18.95, ordinary quality 8.95-9.95, large mostly 20.95-22.95; cartons 24s 8.95-9.95, 36s 12.95-13.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Cucumber movement out of Western and Central New York is expected continue seasonal decline. Trading fairly active. Prices unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 18.00-20.00 and fair

For more information on:

- [Shipping Point Report Details](#)
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[Custom Average Tool \(CAT\) Graphing tool and aggregated data source.](#)

quality 10.00-13.00. Supplies fairly light and in few hands. Quality is reported as generally good. Cucumber movement out of Central and South Florida continues with very light shipments. Expect sufficient volume and number of shippers for first F.O.B. report within 10-14 days. Cucumber movement out of Michigan is expected to continue to decline as the season nears its end. Current supplies are in too few hands to establish a market. Movement of cucumbers out of Georgia is expected to increase seasonally. Trading was moderate with prices unchanged. Waxed 1 1/9-bushel cartons/crates medium 16.35-16.85 and fair quality 8.35-8.85. Cartons 24s 5.35-5.85. Quality is reported as generally good.

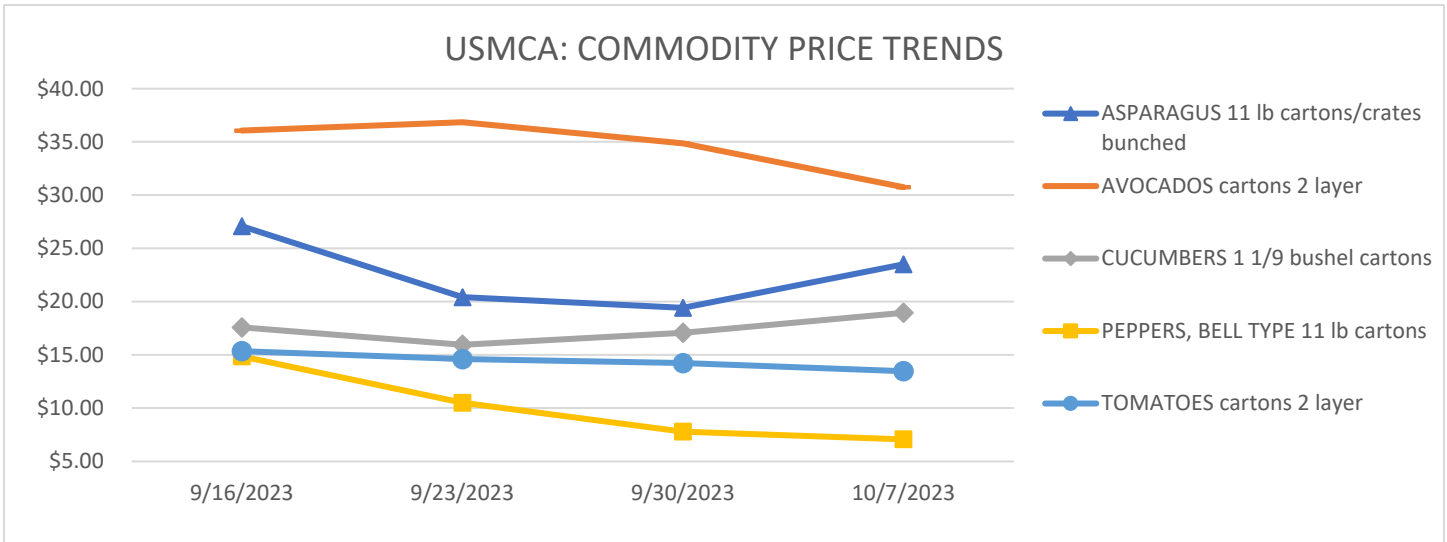
Movement of green bell peppers out of San Joaquin Valley California is expected about the same. Trading moderate for light supplies. Prices large slightly lower, other generally unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo mostly 14.45-14.95, extra-large mostly 15.95-16.95, large mostly 13.95, medium mostly 12.95-13.95 and irregular sized fair quality mostly 11.95-12.95. Volumes remain mostly consistent as the season enters the final weeks. Quality is reported as generally good. Green bell peppers out of Michigan movement are expected to decline as the season nears its end. Trading fairly active with prices generally unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel crates green jumbo and extra-large 16.00 and medium irregular size fair quality 12.00. Green bell peppers out of Western North Carolina movement are expected to decrease as the season winds down. Trading fairly active at higher prices. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large 16.00-18.00, large 12.00-14.00, and irregular sized fair quality 13.00-16.00. Green bell peppers out of Coachella Valley California movement are expected to begin harvest the week of October 15th. The first F.O.B. report is expected to be issued the week of October 22nd. Quality expected to be generally good.

Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices 5x5-5x6 sizes much lower, 5x5-5x6s lower, others generally unchanged. Cartons 2-layer vine ripers 4x4-4x5s mostly 12.95-13.95, 5x5-5x6s mostly 10.95-12.95 and 25-pound cartons loose 4x4-4x5 sizes mostly 13.95-14.95, 5x5-5x6 sizes 10.95-12.95. Quality reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Central District California is expected about the same. Trading moderate at much lower prices. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens jumbo and extra-large mostly 18.00-8.95, large and medium mostly 7.00-8.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Eastern Tennessee and Virginia Eastern Shore is expected to decrease, with harvest expected to finish within the next 7 days. Trading fairly slow at lower prices. 25-pound cartons loose, 85 percent U.S. One or Better Mature Greens 5x6 and 6x6 size 14.00-15.00, 6x7 size mostly 10.00-13.00. Demand is moderate and prices are about steady. Extra services included. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Alabama is expected to decrease seasonally as more growers are expected to finish for the season this week, with cooler than normal nights curtailing some harvests early. Trading fairly slow at lower prices. 25-pound cartons loose, 85 percent U.S. One or Better Mature Greens 5x6 size 10.00-12.00. Vine ripers jumbo, extra-large, and large 8.00-10.00. Extra services included. Quality reported as generally good. Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa is expected about the same. Trading was moderate at lower prices. Cartons 2-layer vine ripers 4x4-5x6s mostly 10.95-12.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Western North Carolina is expected to decrease as the season winds down. Trading fairly slow at slightly lower prices. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens type 5x6-6x7 size supplies insufficient to quote. 25-pound cartons loose vine ripers U.S. Combination or Better jumbo, extra-large and large 9.95-11.95. Extra services included. Tomato movement out of Florida West District is expected to increase as more growers start the season. Current supplies very light as some cool nights have delayed crop maturity. Trading is moderate and the first F.O.B. price report has been issued. Prices 25-pound carton loose. 85 percent U.S. One or Better. 5x6 size 12.00-14.95, 6x6 size 12.00-14.95, 6x7 size 8.00. Quality is reported as generally good.

The following table provides a four-week price trend of the highest traded commodities this week.

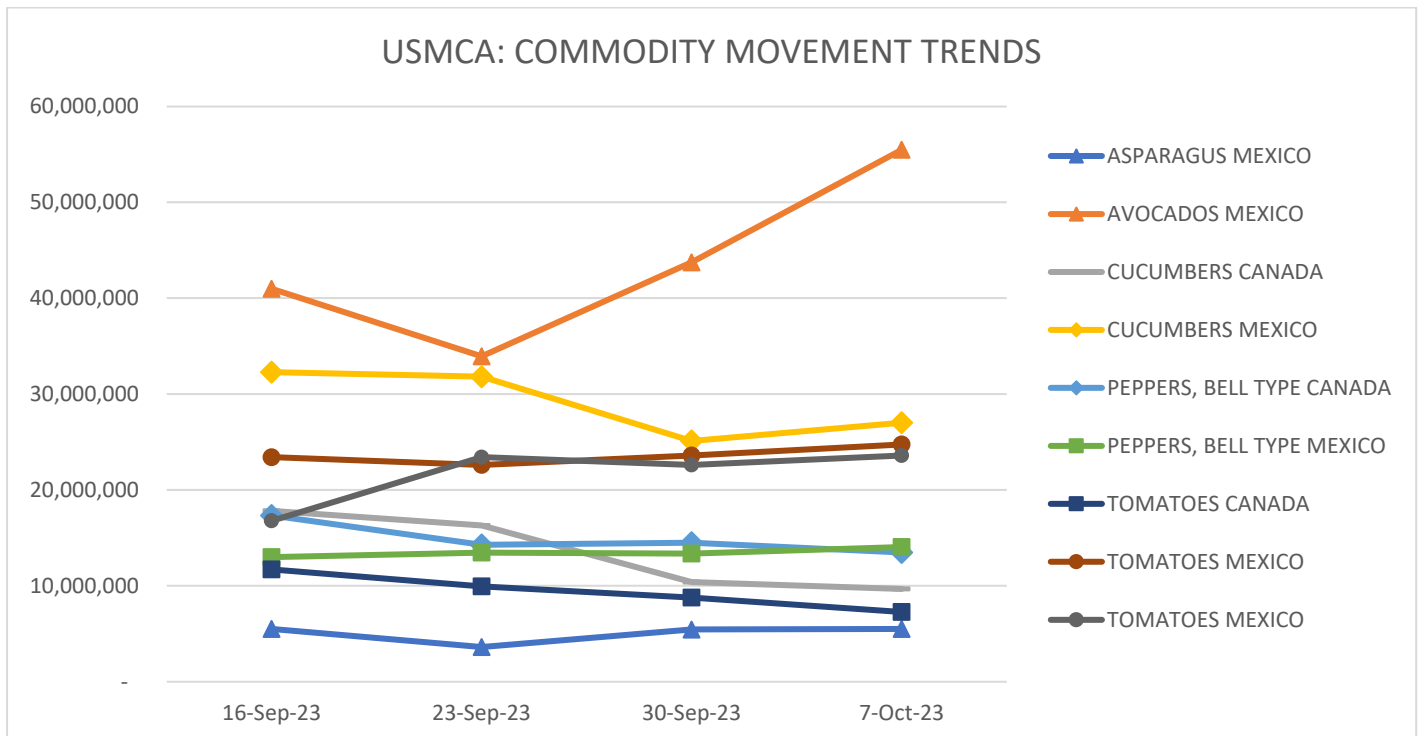
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	9/16/2023	9/23/2023	9/30/2023	10/7/2023
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 27.08	\$ 20.42	\$ 19.42	\$ 23.50
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 36.05	\$ 36.85	\$ 34.85	\$ 30.75
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 17.58	\$ 15.95	\$ 17.08	\$ 18.95
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	11 lb. cartons	\$ 14.86	\$ 10.50	\$ 7.79	\$ 7.07
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 15.35	\$ 14.60	\$ 14.23	\$ 13.48

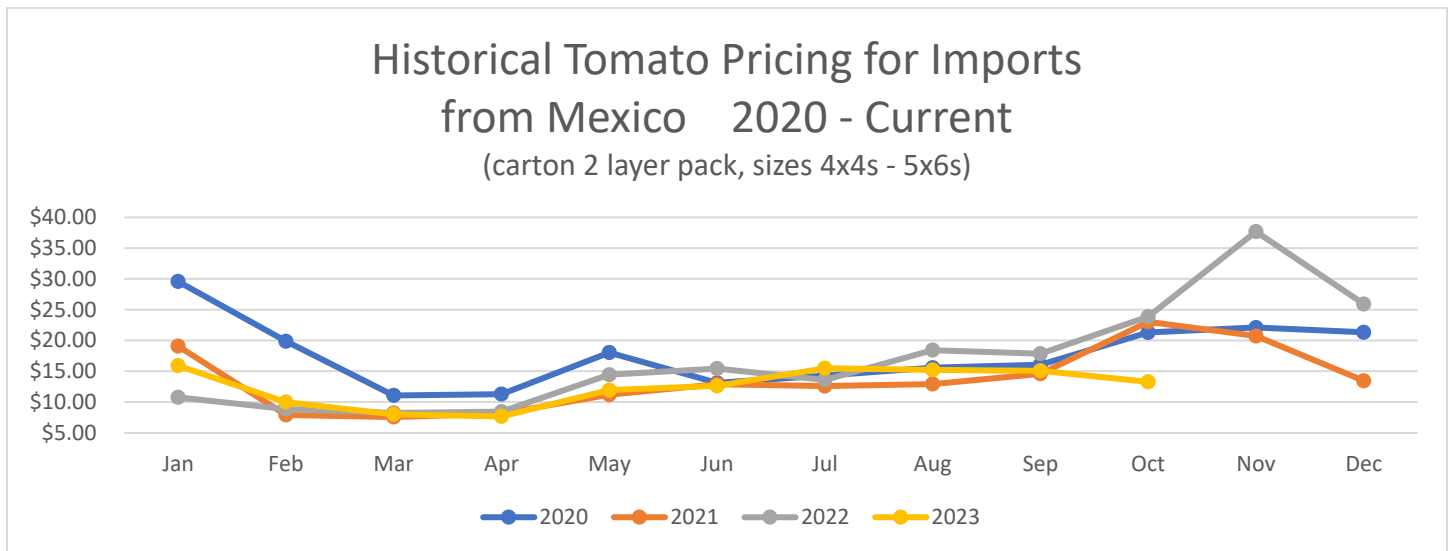


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	16-Sep-23	23-Sep-23	30-Sep-23	7-Oct-23
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	5,496,932	3,610,554	5,444,247	5,509,277
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	40,980,020	33,947,287	43,743,880	55,484,064
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	17,821,192	16,284,857	10,391,613	9,677,725
	MEXICO	32,285,701	31,812,336	25,115,493	27,012,240
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	17,328,481	14,271,335	14,496,881	13,487,880
	MEXICO	12,988,651	13,457,597	13,359,146	14,050,313
TOMATOES	CANADA	11,706,442	9,938,112	8,769,884	7,265,642
	MEXICO	23,415,359	22,607,540	23,590,881	24,753,089
	MEXICO	16,791,292	23,415,359	22,607,540	23,590,881



The following chart, *Historical Tomato Pricing for Imports from Mexico*, is a four-year view of Mexican tomato prices at shipping point. Tomatoes are shown as they are the most consistently traded year-round. They have the highest volume of product moving between the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, along with a high level of market coverage of tomatoes by USDA Market News.



To be regarded as "seasonal and perishable," agricultural products must meet the following conditions: (1) the products are fresh or chilled products falling under the following HS2002 tariff codes: 0701, 0702, 0703, 0704, 0705, 0706, 0707, 0708, 0709, 0803, 0804, 0805, 0806, 0807, 0808, 0809, 0810; (2) the products are marketed in raw form for consumption without "further processing" ("further processing" refers to e.g. crushing, juicing, canning, or any other process that transforms the product from its raw form); and (3) the products normally are marketed within eight weeks after harvesting.

For information on the imported volume and prices of the remaining Seasonal and Perishable commodities listed below please visit:

<https://www.marketnews.usda.gov/mnp/fv-home>

- Potatoes
- Tomatoes
- Onions, shallots, garlic, leeks, and other alliaceous vegetables
- Cabbages, cauliflower, kohlrabi, kale, and similar edible brassicas
- Lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*) and chicory (*Cichorium* spp.)
- Carrots, turnips, salad beets (salad beetroot), salsify, celeriac, radishes, and similar edible roots
- Cucumbers, including gherkins
- Leguminous vegetables, shelled or unshelled
- Other vegetables, fresh or chilled: asparagus, eggplants, celery, mushrooms and truffles, peppers (*Capsicum* or of the genus *Pimenta*), spinach, artichokes, olives, pumpkins, squash, and gourds
- Bananas and plantains
- Dates, figs, pineapples, avocados, guavas, mangoes, and mangosteens
- Citrus fruit
- Grapes
- Melons (including watermelons) and papayas (papaws)
- Apples, pears, and quinces
- Apricots, cherries, peaches (including nectarines), plums (including prune plums) and sloes
- Other fruit: strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, mulberries, loganberries, black, white, or red currants and gooseberries (other than kiwifruit), cranberries, blueberries, and other fruits of the genus *Vaccinium*, kiwifruit, durians, persimmons,
- Other berries; tamarinds